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16th Anniversary of the Signing  
of the 1954 Geneva Agreements

The 1954 Geneva Agreements'  
Immutable Principles Must Be  
Abided By

by DO XUAN SANG

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## U.S. Neo-Colonialism in South Viet Nam

# A DOUBLE LESSON

**DURING** the day, American bombers reduce a village to ashes. Night comes. Over the smoldering ruins, a helicopter—American of course—hovers. It blares out nostalgic songs expressing poignant sorrow. At intervals, between two songs, one hears hair-raising bombing and weaving, in which those with some experience easily recognize the cries of people being tormented. These songs and screams, taped and broadcast over bombed villages, are for the wounded and the survivors. The aim is to break down their morale, soften them up, drive them to complete submission. That's "psy-war," psychological warfare, following in the steps of war by bombs and shells.

When one closely studies American neo-colonialist policy as applied in Viet Nam one is struck by the diversity of the means used to suppress. Tiger cages, B-52s, napalm, "defoliants," steel-pellet bombs, phosphorus, Green Berets, films, booby-traps, various religions—nothing has been overlooked. Viet Nam has become a testing-ground for all the weapons, tactics, psychological and sociological tricks and political machinations that American laboratories, plants, and research centres have turned out and are continuing to turn out every day.

In its attempts to destroy, physically and spiritually, the resistance of a people, in its endeavour to wipe out all material and biological life on Vietnamese soil, to eradicate all class and communal consciousness, and to turn each Vietnamese into a

man ready to betray his country and to murder his fellow-countrymen just for the sake of a few dollars, American neo-colonialism sticks at nothing. It has been more ferocious and cruel than old colonialism.

One is also struck by the obduracy and stubbornness with which Washington has been conducting its Vietnamese and Indochinese policy over the past twenty years: intervention as early as 1950 and supply to French colonialism of material and technical means to help it crush the Vietnamese resistance, sabotage of the 1954 Geneva conference, bloody repression of the South Vietnamese population, special war, then massive armed intervention, ending up with "Vietnamization" and extension of the war to Cambodia.

Truman's decision in 1950 to send a US military mission to "help" in the French command was followed by Eisenhower's to give every assistance to Ngo Dinh Diem, by Kennedy's to launch his special war, by Johnson's to engage in large-scale tactics, and finally by the adventurous steps taken by Nixon, who has extended the war to the whole of Indochina.

From a twenty-year-old confrontation the Vietnamese people have drawn a first lesson: neo-colonialism is indeed a fundamental policy of US imperialism: it is part and parcel, indeed the keystone of the latter's global strategy. American imperialism is bent on carrying out this policy in a systematic and savage way, sparing no means and no effort. Washington's Vietnamese and Indochinese policy is not the result of improvisation, sudden changes of temper, and temporary errors: it is integrated into an overall policy, neo-colonialism, which is itself closely bound up with the present structure of imperialism and its present situation in the world.

Viet Nam is not an isolated case. Let us not forget all the interventions, brutal or camouflaged, in many countries since 1945. Let us not forget Iran, Guatemala, the Congo, Santo Domingo, Bolivia and so many other affairs. The invasion of Cambodia by American and Saigon troops came as a surprise only to those who had not been abreast with the situation for the last twenty years.

While progressive people in the United States cry out: "No more Viet Nam!" the American rulers, the Pentagon, are ready to intervene brutally in any country of the Third World, whenever they think it necessary and possible. They have set up a colonial war machine, a political machine, an espionage network, a financial system, all on a world scale, to make it possible for Washington to wade in in any part of the world. Today, Viet Nam, Indochina, to-morrow, no one knows yet where. But one may be sure that the plans have been worked out in detail and are ready.

**F**ROM their twenty-year-old confrontation with US imperialism, the Vietnamese people have also been able to draw a second lesson: no technical means, no political manoeuvre, no psychological trick can overcome the resistance of a people resolved to wrest back its independence and freedom. It is the history of Washington's Vietnamese and Indochinese policy has been a series of more and more brutal interventions, it has also been a record of ever more severe failures. Each technique and tactic practised by the Americans has been victoriously countered by the Vietnamese, then Lao and Khmer, peoples.

American imperialism was unable to tame French colonialism from the Dien Bien Phu disaster. It was incapable of saving Ngo Dinh Diem, and was even forced to liquidate him unceremoniously. Special war, the most recent discovery of the strategists, has come to grief. Washington has withdrawn its without armed forces and air and naval fleets against the North and the South of Viet Nam, but to no avail. The invasion of Cambodia has only resulted in rousing an entire people against American policy.

A serious consequence has been that never in the whole history of the American nation have the American people gone through such a profound internal crisis. When a regime that proclaims itself to be the most advanced democracy in the world orders its police to fire on student contestants and resorts to deceptions against its own Senate, what a country that prides itself

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## Saigon Students Stage Violent Demonstrations Against U.S.-Puppets

**O**N July 11, some one thousand Saigon students took to the streets to protest the US war of aggression and demand peace.

The demonstrators carried with them a coffin with an inscription "Peace now and stop the war!" and an enormous, white cotton dove symbol of peace. They marched to the US Embassy and the "Independence Palace."

19 US and other foreign pacifists who had been in Saigon for a week, also took

part in the action, carrying with them banners reading "Peace now!" and "We condemn the corrupted, unjust and dictatorial government of President Thieu!"

Violent clashes broke out between protesters and heavily-armed combat police of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Many of the demonstrators succeeded in breaking through police cordons and reaching the puppet Lower House.

Earlier, the "Saigon Students' Union" had held a meeting for "an immediate

peace" at the Agricultural Faculty.

Bishop Paul Moore and 15 other foreign pacifists took part in the meeting. One of them said that back to the United States they would demand an end to US support of Nguyen Van Thieu, because they had convinced them that the Thieu regime had become completely unpopular.

An American student and a South Vietnamese girl

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## The 1954 Geneva Agreements' Immutible Principles Must Be Abided By

by DO XUAN SANG  
DRVN Lawyers' Association

SIXTEEN years ago, the Geneva Agreements re-established peace in Indochina on the basis of consent principles, namely sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Indochinese countries, with strict prohibition of all outside interference in their internal affairs.

The temporary partition of Viet Nam only served the purpose of the cease-fire through regroupment of the belligerent forces on either side of a military demarcation line which "is provisional and should not in any way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary." (Point 6 of the Final Declaration.)

Notably was humiliated—neither the French aggressor, nor his American sleeping partner, nor the Bao Dai puppet regime, for it was authorized to be party to the Final Declaration of the Conference and provided with an exit in the free general elections scheduled for July 1956. Article 21, paragraph C of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Viet Nam confirmed by Point 9 of the Final Declaration, prohibits all "reprisals or discrimination against persons or organizations on account of their activities during the hostilities" and guarantees their democratic liberties.

The victors, in this case the Vietnamese people, as well as the Lao and Cambodian peoples, thus showed a wisdom and sober-mindedness helpful to the relaxation of international tensions.

However, their enemies, chiefly the US imperialists, torpedoed the Geneva Accords immediately after their signing.

The US of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon has been waging war in all its horrible forms: unilateral unleashed war, special war, then local war in

South Viet Nam, war of destruction by air and naval bombardments against North Viet Nam, special war in Laos, subversive attempts, then coup d'état and armed aggression in Cambodia.

It was a deliberate, systematic and complete violation of the Geneva principles sanctioned in Point 12 of the Final Declaration.

Nevertheless juridically speaking, the White House can neither deny nor dodge the Geneva Agreements and its jurists have vainly tried to distort these and vindicate US presence in South Viet Nam.

Thus the legal memorandum filed by Leonard C. Meeker, legal adviser to the Department of State, read: "The Geneva Accords of 1954 established the date and hour for a cease-fire in Viet Nam, drew a provisional military demarcation line, with a demilitarized zone on both sides, and required an exchange of prisoners and the phased regroupment of Viet Nam forces from the South to the North and of French Union forces from the North to the South. The introduction into Viet Nam of troop reinforcements and new military equipment (except for replacement and repair) was prohibited. The armed forces of each party were required to respect the demilitarized zone and the territory of the other side." In short, the Geneva Accords would

lead down to an armistice convention, losing their essential character as a political settlement of the Indochinese issue on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

At the Paris talks between the DRVN and the US, A. Harriman tried to push the difference between the essential and non-

essential elements of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. The essential elements would be the separation and regroupment of the belligerent forces, creation of a demilitarized zone, renunciation to the use of force, international control and political settlement by means of free elections which could take place only in peace time.

Then, Cabot Lodge admitted four essential elements: 1—setting up of a provisional military demarcation line and a demilitarized zone; 2—disengagement of the belligerent forces; 3—non-intervention and non-aggression of one zone against another in Viet Nam; 4—international supervision.

These attempts to wreathe the 1954 Agreements on Viet Nam try to turn the Southern zone into a separate State which, placed *ipso facto* under State protection, could "legally" receive US aid even in the form of an expeditionary force. All that runs counter to international law, as it has been conceived, taught and practised everywhere.

The far-fetched arguments of the American jurists and diplomats have been easily disposed of by the Vietnamese side, strongly supported by lawyers in the United States and progressive American lawyers, chiefly the Lawyers' Committee on American Policy toward Viet Nam.

On the battlefield, the imperialists have failed in obliterating the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples. But the men in Washington still think that they can continue to negotiate from a position of strength, whence their desperate efforts to prolong the war either by Vietnamizing it or

bringing it to Laos and Cambodia. Realities have debunked this myth.

A military solution, that is the crushing of the resistance of the Indochinese peoples, being impossible, the only alternative left for the US is to negotiate, not from a position of strength but on a reasonable basis which can only be respect for the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples, i.e., the fundamental principles of the 1954 Agreements.

The position of the peoples of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, as laid down in the NFL to-point over-all solution, the political program of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Lao Patriotic Front, is as clear as daylight: independence, peace, neutrality and, with regard to South Viet Nam, peaceful advance toward national reunification. This solution is not only fair and conform to international law and the Geneva law, but sensible and not humiliating for anyone, be they the US aggressors or their allies and satellites, or even the personalities on the other side of the barricade who will be given all facilities to be reinstated in the national community where there will be no discrimination against them. Only US neo-colonialism and the puppet regime at its back and call will be banished.

Nixon pretends to show his good will by appointing Democrat David Bruce as his successor at the Paris Conference. However, so long as the White House does not alter its policy, the 1954 Geneva Agreements, that is as long as it does not give up its neo-colonialist policy, the negotiations cannot make any progress. The longer the conflict drags on, the more disastrously it will boomerang on the US.

very contrary to the complete lies I was told during my invasion."

Sweeney said he had been told that if he were ever captured by the liberation forces, even if he were not armed, he might be either killed or tortured. But what actually happened was quite another story, said Sweeney.

"I have been living with the Vietnamese people for seventeen months. There have been many things that I've learned. The first thing that I've learned is that the Vietnamese people consider me as a friend, and they know that their real enemy is not the people of the US of America. They have read enemy is the warmongering government in Washington."

"Also the relationship between the men and officers of the US armed forces and the liberation forces impressed me very much. There was mutual love and respect between the men and officers of the liberation forces. That is something that does not exist in the US armed forces."

"One thing I want to tell you (living among the people

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## ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DRVN



The harvest is brought to the drying-yard of the co-operative

### \* BUMPER WINTER-SPRING CROP IN THAI BINH PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE peasants of Thai Binh province have brought in a good rice harvest.

According to initial figures, the average paddy output in the whole province reached 3 tons per hectare, surpassing the target yield by 10 per cent (as against 2.6 tons per hectare in the winter 1966—spring 1967 bumper rice crop) and the planned average by 1.12 per cent.

After ten years of persevering experiments and extension of acreage under "spring" rice crop with a view to basically changing the percentage of cultivation in the province and better solving the food problem, in this winter-spring crop Thai Binh increased the area of "spring" rice to 22.2 per cent of the whole crop (twice as against last year's "spring" crop) and enlarged the sowing and transplanting area

of a new variety of "spring" high-yield seed. Its average productivity is 3.8 tons per hectare or 1.1 tons more than the previous year. With 72% of area grown with "spring" rice, Dong Hung district has reaped the heaviest "spring" rice crop in the province. Other districts as Hung Ha, Quynh Phn, Kien Xung and Vu Thai which grew "spring" rice on 56-60% of their ricefield have also attained a fairly high output.

Nearly 30 co-ops in the province obtained an average of 4-5 tons of paddy per hectare. Almost all of them grew "spring" rice. Such advanced co-ops as Vu Thang (Kien Xung district), a village-scale co-op, and Tan Phong (Vu Thai district) planned "spring" rice on their whole area and harvested over 3 tons of paddy per hectare on the average.

Thai Binh has grown

### \* COTTON HARVEST IN YEN DINH

THE co-operatives of Yen Dinh district, Thanh Hoa province, have reaped a bumper cotton crop. In comparison with last year the areas under cotton increased by 50 per cent and its output by 80 per cent. The volume of raw cotton these co-ops supplied to the State reached 480 tons, thus exceeding last year's figure by 200 tons.

Taking into account the soil, climate and the experience previously gained, this year Yen Dinh district assigned the job of cotton-growing to 24 co-ops, among them 12 of village size.

District technicians have been guiding and helping the co-ops to build hydraulic works; a system of canals and channels for irrigation, draining and maintaining an amount of humidity suitable for the growth of the cotton-plant has been completed. Moreover, highland co-ops have been supplied with nine Diesel pumps.

The co-ops selected high-yield and long-stapled seeds, manured each hectare of cotton field with 7-9 tons of fertilizers and satisfactorily applied intensive cultivation techniques. Manpower was appropriately used by the co-ops for a prompt harvesting of cotton. Harvesters even worked at noon to complete their daily task. The co-ops have delimited planting areas for the coming cotton crop, and put them under a short-term rice while preparing the soil for the 1971 cotton crop.

### \* Hanoi Handicrafts

HANOI is a city known for its age-old handicrafts.

Formerly, each village around it specialized in a particular branch and achieved national fame for its products, for instance Ban paper, Trich Sei satin, Dong My and Dong Ngac basket-work, Na Ka copper utensils, Xuan Phuoc hardware, Bat Trang ceramics.

The city was reputed for its "thirty-six guilds" and its streets bear still now the names which recall the artisanal groupings it gathered, such as Cotton Street, Silk Street, Tinware Street, Copper Street, Silver Street.

In fact Hanoi has been at all times the key-center of handicrafts of the country. Its articles were in great demand (owing to their high quality and artistic pretension) not only at home but also abroad.

At present, after fifteen years of socialist transformation and construction and economic development, Hanoi boasts 340 handicraft co-operatives and 821 artisanal groups numbering 23,000 handicraftsmen; their annual production represents 41 per cent of the total value of industrial output of the city and one-fifth of the value of handicraft output of North Viet Nam. Many hand-made articles account for a high percentage in the city's total output of their branches: goods supplied to farming, 50 per cent; ceramics, glassware, kilns and stoves, 70 per cent; basketry, leather, dye-stuffs, iron-ware, office requisites, 60 per cent. Some objects of art, chiefly basket-work, come entirely from handicrafts.

Hanoi handicrafts employ many categories of artisans: specialized workers, ex-

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### DEPARTING ANTI-WAR G.I. TELLS HIS STORY

(by a VNA reporter)

A brief conference was held in Hanoi on July 10 by Truong Cong Dung, Acting Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of North Viet Nam in the DRVN, in connection with the forthcoming departure for Sweden of an anti-war American soldier who had crossed over to the liberation forces in South Viet Nam.

Truong Cong Dung told the conference that in implementation of the policy of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of North Viet Nam toward the officers and soldiers of the US and other foreign countries of the US camp who want to get out of the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the Special Representation had been charged with taking all the measures necessary to help the American soldiers John M. Sweeney, registra-

tion number 2307050, M. (Mike) Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment, US 3rd Marine Division.

Truong Cong Dung condemned the Nixon administration for steadily pushing its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and vindicated the US anti-war soldiers, who, thus, causing so much useless suffering to the American youth, soldiers and their families.

For this reason, he said, many officers and soldiers of the US and foreign countries of the US camp in South Viet Nam have joined progressive Americans and peace, freedom and justice-loving people in the society by voluntarily accepting Nixon's policy of war prolongation and expansion.

The conference then heard a verbal statement by John M. Sweeney himself.

"My first assignment in Viet Nam reinforced greatly my slight anti-war feelings,

I was assigned to accompany security company on Hanoi, with Reginald, US 3rd Marine Division.

"While on operation, I was able to see children standing by the side of the road begging for food. And outside Cam Lo which is a war concentration camp for the national minorities, I saw a sign which read: 'Do not feed the children.' It was making me wonder that the United States Government and the Saigon puppets consider the people of Viet Nam animals."

"The only place where I had ever seen such a sight was a city zoo," Sweeney said.

He said he had got order to join his unit in the Canyon Operation, and his unit was attacked by the liberation forces.

"For a few days I became sick with malaria, fatigued of being sent to the rear, I

was ordered to carry twice as much equipment and then beaten brutally by my company commander who later tried to kill me," Sweeney said.

"After that I decided I was not going to move any more, and he decided to leave me in the jungle to die and report me as 'missing in action.'"

Sweeney said he had spent five nights and four days in the jungle with only a few pieces of food and very little water and malaria.

"Before I came to Viet Nam I had heard an American G.I. who had crossed over to the side of the National Front for Liberation. He was an Afro-American and his name was Mackingly Nallan. When I was in the jungle alone, I decided never to return to the US armed forces again. I started to search for the liberation forces."

Some time later, Sweeney met two liberation fighters who carried him back to their base.

"I'm afraid at this base, I was immediately given the much-needed medical attention and food, which is





## CEYLON RECOGNIZES DRVN

The Ministry for External Affairs of Ceylon on July 15 released the following communiqué:

"THE Government of Ceylon has with effect from June 24, 1970 extended full diplomatic recognition to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Letters to this effect have been exchanged between the Honorable Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, and Mr. Phan Van Dong, Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam."

## CAMBODIA

### FIERCE BATTLES WEST OF MEKONG RIVER

FIERCE battles were unfolding in many provinces West of the Mekong River, the FUNK Information Bureau reported.

On the night of June 25, the National Liberation Armed Forces (NLA)F) hammered at a para battalion of the Phnom Penh army stationed at Kompong Trahe, Kompong Chhang province, inflicting over 300 casualties, capturing a number of troops and downing a plane.

In Kompong Cham province, on June 29 a Saigon troop column was intercepted by regional forces: 800 sub-armed troops and 18 vehicles were put out of action.

In Preah Vihear province, on June 24 and 26, the NLA)F) fought two engagements with

Lon Nol troops stationed at Chong Kham and the Preah Vihear district capital, wiping out 300 many soldiers and capturing a big quantity of arms and ammunition.

In Siemreap province, on June 8 NLA)F) men knocked out two enemy companies at a troop concentration south of Road No. 6 and in the garrison defending a bridge east of the provincial capital.

In all, the NLA)F) put out of action over 1,000 enemy troops and 18 military vehicles.

### Cambodian Minister Denounces US Scheme to Send Thai Troops to Cambodia

ACCORDING to the Information Bureau of the FUNK, on June 29, 1970, Khieu Samphan, member of the Political Bureau of the FUNK and Minister of National Defence of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, issued a statement strongly denouncing the US for sending Thai mercenaries to Cambodia.

The statement pointed out that in execution of Nixon's manoeuvre of "setting Asians against Asians," after the withdrawal of US aggressor troops to South Viet Nam, the US imperialists on the one hand still maintain a great number of Saigon puppet troops in Cambodia, and continue to savagely bomb and strafe the Cambodian territory, and on the other hand, have ordered the Thanom-Praphas clique in Bangkok to send Thai mercenaries to Cambodia to help the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique keep up aggression against Cambodia, and check the patriotic movement of the Cambodian people.

The statement called on the Cambodian army and people to strengthen their unity and increase mutual assistance in order to drive the Thai aggressors out of Cambodia. It called on the Thai people and Khmer residents in Thailand to use various forms of struggle to prevent the US and Thai reactionary authorities from sending Thai troops to Cambodia to massacre the Khmer people. It also called on Thai troops to take anti-war actions against the reactionary authorities of Thailand who, on US orders, are making preparations to deploy them into Cambodia as cannon-fodder for US troops in their aggression in Cambodia.

The statement stressed: "The struggle of the Cambodian Liberation Armed Forces and people under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea which Sandech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk is President, aimed at overthrowing the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique and pushing the US and Saigon puppet troops out of Cambodia, is a legitimate effort for peace, independence, neutrality, liberty and democracy. It is that of a nation which is refusing to surrender its independence to the US aggressors and accept the slavery yoke of US imperialism. It conforms with the interests of all nations who are denied independence and sovereignty as victims of oppression. Should the US imperialists and their satellites are reckless enough to dispatch their troops to Cambodia, the Cambodian army and people will resolutely inflict upon them still more ignominious setbacks."

## 8th Anniversary of the Signing of the Geneva Agreements on Laos

(July 23, 1962)

### FACTS AND EVENTS IN LAOS FROM 1962 TO 1970

#### 1962

June 13: The tripartite agreement on the formation of a tripartite national union government in Laos was signed in Zurich.

June 23: Formation and royal recognition of the tripartite national union government.

July 23: The Geneva Agreements on Laos were signed. Declaration on the neutrality of Laos was released.

November: The pro-US clique launched fresh attacks on the liberated zone in Savannay province (Upper Laos) and Saravane province (Lower Laos).

#### 1963

April 2: Pro-US reactionaries' attempt with 4 tanks and troops to capture Colonel Dena, commanding the neutralist armed forces, failed.

April 3: Quinim Pholsena, Foreign Minister in the tripartite national union government, a stalwart advocate of neutrality, was murdered.

July 18: Prince Souphanouvong, President of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF), Vice-Premier of the tripartite national union government, sent to the co-chairmen of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, a third letter protesting against the occupation of Laos by rightist troops in contravention of the 1962 Agreements.

July 20: A company of South Viet Nam paratroopers was air-dropped on Muong Nong area (Savannakhet).

September 9: Covered by armoured cars, rightist troops besieged the army unit defending the representation of the LPF in Vientiane, opened fire at the building, and encircled the DRVN Vientiane Embassy.

#### 1964

January 20: 13 rightist battalions attacked many LPF positions in Xieng Khouang, and January 29: The first US "Green Beret" unit from Okinawa arrived in Thailand to take part in the "Anti-Riot" manoeuvre in co-ordination with 14,000 Thai troops, which posed a threat to the independence and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos.

February 10: The LPF issued a statement denouncing the US and its lackeys' kindling the civil war in Laos.

February 19: The SEATO held session in Bangkok to discuss the Lao situation.

April 10: The LPF second congress adopted the 10-point program of action of anti-US struggle and building a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, neutral and prosperous Laos.

April 18: The tripartite summit conference failed on account of rightist elements' attempt to overthrow the tripartite national union government and their statement that the Geneva, Zurich and Plain of Jars Agreements were outdated.

April 19: Kongsavith Abhay and Sibho engineers launched a coup d'état. They retained Prince Souvanna Phouma as "Premier" but forced him to "reshuffle" and "enlarge" his cabinet by including Thai troops to Cambodia to check the US aggression and straining of Lao liberated zone began.

May 8: The LPF made public a statement calling for the convening in Phnom Penh of a conference of countries members of the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos to seek a peaceful settlement to the Lao problem.

June: Prof. J. Bernal, President of the World Peace Council, the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee, the Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Journalists' Association, and the Asian Buddhist Conference denounced the US imperialists' aggression against Laos and bombings of the Lao liberated zone.

July: Operation "Three Arrows" was mounted on the liberated zone in Laos.

October 8: Peking Lao Red revealed the setting up by the US and quailings of "unity

village," a kind of "strategic hamlet" in Laos.

October 14: Large-scale operation "Sonmay" launched on the Lao liberated zone.

December 27: The tripartite conference in Paris was sabotaged by US-inspired rightist elements.

December 31: Prince Souphanouvong sent to Prince Souvanna Phouma a protest against the "general election" scheme.

#### 1965

January 31: An abortive coup d'état was staged by a number of rightist officers. The instigators, Phoumi Nosavan and Sibho, fled to Thailand.

February 22: The LPF protested against the redefinition of power in the "government" in utter contravention of the principle of unanimity between the three parties.

#### 1966

March 30: Phosokhot victory: Lao liberation forces repulsed the attack of 10 enemy battalions who took heavy casualties.

May 3: Paksai Lao Radio condemned heavy B-54 bombardment of the liberated zone in Kham Mouane province (Central Laos).

October 12: General Thao Ma, commanding Lao air force, staged a coup d'état and bombed Vientiane. The coup failed and he took refuge in Thailand.

November: Under the pressure of pro-US extremists, Kong Le resigned his post as commander of the "neutralist" forces. A few months later he went abroad.

#### 1967

June 3: Souvanna Phouma reshuffled his cabinet and included four other pro-US elements in it.

July 24: LPT disclosed that 300 Japanese militarymen were operating on the territory controlled by the Vietnamese authorities.

August 26: Reactionaries handed grenades at the barracks of Lao people's liberation troops defending the office of the Representation of the LPF in Vientiane.

September 29: Japanese Premier Sato visited Laos to discuss Japanese interference in Laos.

October 20: Souvanna Phouma left for a visit to the US.

November 24: Lao rightist troops, and Thai soldiers mounted big "sweeps" on the Thai-Lao borderland.

#### 1968

January: The French monthly *L'Evénement* revealed in its January 1968 issue the presence of 12,000 Americans in Laos.

January 16: Lao patriotic forces liberated Nam Bac.

January 17: A plastic bomb laid by pro-US elements exploded in the yard of the DRVN Embassy in Vientiane.

January 24: Thai Premier Thanom Kittikachorn officially admitted attacks on Laos by US aircraft based in Thailand (AP, Jan. 23).

March 8: USIS disclosed: the US air-dropped to Lao bandits in Upper Laos about 900 tons of rice, 300 tons of wheat flour, salt, edible oil and clothes per month.

March 11: Thanom Khoman, Thai Foreign Minister, declared he did not rule out the possibility of Thai troop commitment in Laos.

June 12: On US orders, Souvanna Phouma reorganized the High Command of the Lao Royal Army along a more reactionary line.

August 24: 1,000 civil servants in Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Savannakhet and Pakse attempted military training courses.

September 11: The Lao National Assembly passed a bill on the national budget in which 32 million dollars (half of the budget) were earmarked for military operations.

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## 75th Plenary Session of Paris Conference

on Viet Nam (July 16, 1970)

### The U.S. Torpedoes the Geneva Agreements

Says DRVN Negotiator

AT the 75th session of the Paris Conference, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy, in the name of the DRVN Government Delegation, recalled the different stages of the sabotage of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina (the 16th anniversary of their signing is forthcoming) by the US which has invaded Viet Nam and expanded the war throughout Indochina. He dismissed the

Nixon Administration's specious pleas for its Viet Nam war policy. He said that the Vietnamese people unreservedly supported the struggle of the brother Lao and Cambodian peoples for independence, peace and neutrality, which is consistent with the fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements signed in 1954 and 1962 and the present situation in that part of the world.

### ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DRVN

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increased by 9 per cent over 1968. In October 1969, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the capital city, an exhibition of handicrafts and objects of art was held in Hanoi with 1,000 articles from 45 handicraft enterprises. This wide range of hand-made articles shows the new efforts made by Hanoi to restore, preserve and promote handicrafts and applied arts to meet the ever-growing home needs and exports.

Samples of new handicraft articles are permanently on display at a shop in Trang Tien Street for the good of the consumers.

To develop further the productive capacity of Hanoi handicrafts, in 1969, the

artisanal establishments produced 176 tools to improve their equipment. The handicraft co-operatives in the city have multiplied their engineering and repair workshops. The city administrative committee earmarked a big sum of money to open a co-operative for production and overhaul of machines.

Thanks to the development of handicrafts, the living conditions of co-operative artisans have been constantly raised. Dining-halls, canteens, dispensaries have been built by handicraft co-operatives for the welfare of their members. At present, the latter are entitled to various benefits of social security (illness, maternity, family allowances).

### \* One Million Attendances

THE Dramatic Art Department of the DRVN recently organized three theatrical festivals which drew over one million attendances.

The first festival took place at Nghe An, the second at Nam Ha and the third at Haiphong. Fifty-two professional troupes, including those of the army coming from almost all provinces and towns of North Viet Nam, took part in the occasions, performing over 60 plays of various kinds including classical and modern dramas.

Most arresting were the performances given by the

troupes from the mountain regions of North Viet Nam in their minority nationalities languages.

The themes of all the plays were drawn from the nation's history or dealt with the last resistance war against French colonialism and chiefly with the present struggle against the US aggressors in both zones of the country, or with socialist construction in the North. The best plays have been selected and will be acted on the Hanoi stage on the 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN (September 2, 1970).

#### Erratum

In our issue No 276, page 5, column 3, line 52, decisive influence should read divisive influence.

(Continued from page 1)

on being the richest one in history suffers, in consequence of an unjustifiable war, from inflation, economic recession and unemployment, it is small wonder that counter-revolutionary forces are stirred to rebellion and confidence in the government and the regime is eroded.

US neo-colonialism may be served by huge technical and financial means. It is none the less doomed to failure. For, starting from a position of weakness, it can only aggravate that weakness, that poverty, that backwardness, that political and military fields, each time it rushes headlong into a new venture. The Cambodia morass closely follows the Viet Nam morass: now that Washington has extended the war to Cambodia, American and world public opinion has reacted even more strongly against the war in Viet Nam.

Richard Nixon will see that

## A Double Lesson

to other ways and meant in his endeavour to win the Viet Nam, in Indochina, and impose American hegemony in Asia. The peoples of Indochina and those of Asia and other parts of the world must be prepared for longer, harder and more aggressive on his part.

The wish "No more Viet Nam!" can only be realized through a resolute, persistent and unyielding struggle waged by all the peoples, wherever they may be, either Vietnamese, Lao, or Cambodian, or in Tokyo, or in Europe. One must dip the sword of American imperialism, and not beg for its kindness or appeal to its good will. No proposal has been more reasonable than those put forward by the Vietnamese, Lao and Khmer peoples as a basis for negotiation and a peaceful solution to the problems of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Washington, either under Johnson or Nixon, has never reflected otherwise than with horror, surprise and "delight" at the Vietnamese, Lao and Khmer peoples will know how to counter-attack with arms, just as they will know, when the time comes, when the men of Washington have learned the lessons of their failures, how to offer solutions of peace that respect both their own fundamental national interests and the well-understood interests of their adversaries.

In these days when our people are celebrating that were carried out in Geneva 15 years ago, it is not useless to come back to these fundamental questions.

### FACTS AND EVENTS...

(Continued from page 6)

October 31: The LPF passed at an extraordinary session its political program.

November 1: Souvanna Phouma government signed an agreement for the extension of Wattay airfield in Vientiane by Japan.

November 20: South Phetray, LPF representative in Vientiane, denounced US redoubling of air raids on the Lao liberated zone since the US unconditional bombing halt in North Viet Nam.

#### 1969

January 14: A big US ammunition dump was attacked by Lao patriotic forces; one-third of the depot was blown up, shaking window panes in Vientiane.

March 31: AP quoted Melvin Laird, US Defense Secretary, as saying that since 1965 the US Command in South Viet Nam had received orders to operate in Laos as a "protective reaction."

August: At US instigation, the Vietnamese authorities arrested and persecuted the DRVN Embassy and Viet Nam News Agency personnel.

Operation "Koukiet" was launched to encroach on the liberated zone in Xieng Khouang and Plain of Jars.

September 30: AP quoted Souvanna Phouma as admitting US military aid to his administration.

October 20: Hearing by a US Senate special sub-committee of a report on US commitment in Laos.

October 22: Souvanna Phouma was reported by AP as saying that a tacit agreement had been reached during his American trip in October 1969 for US continued aid to his government.

November 19: According to AP, US De-

fense Department reported to Congress that 165 Americans had been captured or reportedly missing in action in Laos.

December 13: US Senate passed a resolution prohibiting introduction of US combat troops in Laos and Thailand.

#### 1970

February 1: US aircraft doubled their activities in Laos compared with last year: sometimes 70 sorties of US planes were carried off from 7 bases in Thailand were recorded in a day (USIS).

February 21: After long and fierce battles, Lao patriotic forces recaptured the Plain of Jars, Xieng Khouang area, put out of action over 6,000 rightist troops and Thai mercenaries.

March 8: The LPF Central Committee released a 5-point political solution to the Lao problem.

March 8: The White House admitted the death of a captain of the Army and 26 other Americans in military operations in Laos. The US Command in Saigon received orders to publish human and material losses of the USAF in Laos.

March 10: Arrival in Vientiane of Colonel Pradit Thiang Thum, envoy carrying Prince Souphanouvong's letter to Prince Souvanna Phouma.

March 20: The White House admitted Thailand involvement in military operations in Laos.

April: The World Peace Council held session in Moscow and resolved to support the Lao people's resistance against US imperialism.

April 28: The Indochinese People's Summit Conference unreservedly supported the Lao people's struggle against US aggression.

April 30: Attopou (Lower Laos) liberated by Lao patriotic forces.

May 17: International Conference to Support the Lao People met in Cairo.

June 9: Lao patriotic forces liberated Saravane (Lower Laos).

### DEPARTING ANTI-WAR G.I. TELLS HIS STORY

(Continued from page 2)

of Viet Nam is the high esteem in which they hold the people of Viet Nam and the American people."

Sweeney then answered the newsmen's questions. Asked about the encounter between among US troops in South Viet Nam, he said: "I saw many GIs who were in the war. I knew of people who shot themselves in the feet in order not to come back. I heard of people who used drugs to try to forget."

Asked why he chose to go to Sweden, Sweeney replied: "If I went home directly, the Government would put me in a military prison for a very long time. Being in prison does not scare me, because I went through there during my training."

their struggle, even though in a small way, against the common enemy of both the people of Viet Nam and the American people."

"I feel personally that making children beg food by not feeding them is a crime in itself. Before Operation Dewey Canyon I was given a briefing. I was told: 'When you were going and you saw anything that moved, you were to shoot at it and ask questions later.'"

"And I asked: 'What if it was a child or an unarmed person in front of us, and I was told: 'Shoot and ask questions later.'"

## South Viet Nam

# MILITARY OPERATIONS

**CA MAU PROVINCE:** PLAF hammered at an enemy artillery unit in Song Doc military sub-sector: 120 enemy casualties, four 105 mm cannons destroyed.

**TRA VINH PROVINCE:** Cau Ke sub-sector attacked from July 6 to 8: over 100 enemy troops wiped out, 2 US planes downed.

**NINH THUAN PROVINCE:** Many enemy positions and bases, including Phan Rang airfield, pounded by PLAF artillery on the night of July 9.

**THUA THIEN PROVINCE:** Military sector on Hill 935 stormed by PLAF from July 1 to 10: about 900 US paratroops killed, 3 US companies annihilated, 40 aircraft downed or wrecked, 7 cannons and a great number of enemy blockhouses and fortifications overrun.

THE US Command in Saigon announced that General George Casey, commanding the US First Air Mobile Cavalry Division in South Viet Nam, had been reported "missing" since July 7 together with six other American officers and men flying in helicopter to visit a field hospital. He was the third US general "missing" in South Viet Nam since April 1, 1970 and the seventh since July 1967.



## SAIGON STUDENTS STAGE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST U.S.-PUPPETS

(Continued from page 1)

student together burned several draft cards of American youths at the meeting amid shouts of the audience, "Long live Peace!" and "Down with Nixon!"

Two women handed to Bishop Moore a coffin which they said contained bones of the Son My victims. It also bore the words: "How many people in My Lai (Son My) were killed? How many tons of bombs have been dropped in Viet Nam by B-52 bombers and how many Vietnamese girls have become taxi-girls because of the Viet Nam war?"

Bishop Moore told the crowd as he received it, "This is too heavy a gift. We are moved to tears before this meeting." Speaking at the meeting, Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' Union, denounced the Thieu-Ky-Khiem bloody repression of students striking for peace and called for the immediate withdrawal of US troops and those of US allies from South Viet Nam and the right for the Vietnamese people to settle themselves their own affairs.

C. Palmer, President of

the Committee for Students Mobilization to End the War in Viet Nam, stressed that the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration would not survive without US support.

After the meeting, the students held demonstrations and distributed a communique calling on all the South Viet Nam students to strengthen their unity in their sustained effort for:

- 1 - Peace and independence for South Viet Nam.
- 2 - Self-determination and total withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Viet Nam.
- 3 - President Nixon's withholding of US support from the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime.

The communique also appealed to the peace-loving students in the world to support the South Viet Nam students' struggle for peace.

On July 12, the Saigon Students' Union made public a letter of protest against police brutalities against the Saigon students' demonstration of July 11, as a result of which eight students were wounded, four of them seriously. The letter

revealed that a student disenter had been arrested. The same day, some fifty girl and boy students including Huynh Tan Mam, who had been illegally detained in Chi Hoa, Con Son (Poulo Condor), Tan Hiep and Thu Duc prisons, decided to set up in Saigon a "Committee of Struggle for Freedom."

**E**ARLIER, thousands of students of the Saigon Agricultural Faculty and Post and Telecommunication College had held a meeting and passed a resolution boycotting compulsory military training ordered by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. They were staunchly backed by the students of other universities and colleges in Saigon, Hue, Da Lat, Can Tho, etc. An appeal was launched by the Saigon Students' Union to all students in South Viet Nam to take the same measure.

Photo:

At a demonstration supporting the workers' general strike, Saigon students set fire to a jeep of US military police (June 15, 1970).

## DRVN POSITION ON INDOCHINA SETTLEMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED

(VNA Statement)

**R**ECENTLY, Western news agencies spread rumours about Hanoi's latest viewpoint on the settlement of the Indochina question with a view to distorting the position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam News Agency is authorized to declare that the position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the Indochina question has been made clear in the May 1, 1970 Statement of the DRVN Government and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front on the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, in the May 2, 1970 Statement of the DRVN Government on the brazen invasion of Cambodia and expansion of war to the whole of Indochina by the US and in the Joint Statement of June 7, 1970 between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It remains unchanged.

## SOUTH VIET NAM SITUATION AS SEEN BY NGUYEN CAO KY

**A**T a banquet given by the Saigon Editors' Association at Caravelle Hotel, Nguyen Cao Ky took the floor and reviewed the economic, financial and social situation of South Viet Nam, Gini Phong Press Agency reported.

Ky said: "The most crucial problem facing us (the Thieu-Ky regime-Ed.) at present is our economic and financial collapse. It has been referred to daily in the press which carries cartoons, editorials and even miscellaneous news on countless cases of robbery and suicide and family tragedies caused by poverty. It has also been the theme of speeches and heated debates in the National Assembly. All this spells out a serious economic situation and the people's hard and unstable living conditions which have now become a source of anxiety."

"This predicament," Ky added, "is due to the fact that production is slack, war expenditures are soaring up, the national budget is showing a big deficit, and the national economy relies only on US aid, which only helps fight inflation and surmount immediate difficulties."

"The difficulties at the bottom of the present state of things," he went on, "include what is called 'Vietnamization' of the war and the current system of taxation. They have brought about disastrous consequences in all fields. They have landed many families in dire straits, while socially, given rise to howling injustices and bad customs and habits. Many villas and buildings have been erected near slums."

"Our present economic crisis is beyond remedy," he complained. "Therefore we are not surprised that all the economic and financial measures taken recently by Nguyen Van Thieu have fizzled out."

With regard to "Vietnamization," Ky not only held it responsible for the present slump, but anticipated that it contained the seeds of failure and defeat. He said: "Formerly we received from the US massive aid of all kinds from war material to personal outfits. Now with 'Vietnamization' all plans of operations, war means and combat methods have been revised. We are no longer able to strike at a minor position of the enemy with a great number of choppers, bombers, and heavy guns because we are short of them. Besides, when the American troops withdraw, the war means are cut down and the Vietnamese army (puppet troops - Ed.) have to fight in tighter circumstances."

"We must admit that this administration does not enjoy the confidence of the people," Ky concluded. "I would resign should Mr. Thieu not listen to what I've told him."

There is not a more candid admission nor a more vivid illustration than this of the Saigon regime's failures and difficulties, of the divergences between it and its Yankee masters as well as of the personal rivalry between Thieu and Ky who are engaged in a cut-throat competition for the "monopoly" of serving the US.